**College of Nursing Technical Standards: BSN Program**

The BSN degree awarded by the College of Nursing at the completion of the undergraduate nursing education process signifies that the graduate has acquired a broad base of knowledge, skills, and attitudes requisite to the practice of nursing. To achieve this end, all courses in the curriculum must be completed successfully. The technical standards listed here are required for matriculation, promotion, and graduation and are intended to ensure that all candidates, with or without reasonable accommodations, can fully participate in all parts of the curriculum. In order to acquire the skills, knowledge, the attitudes engendered by the curriculum and to render a wide spectrum of patient care, candidates for the BSN degree must have skills and abilities in six areas:

* Observation/Perception
* Communication
* Motor/Tactile function
* Cognitive (conceptual-integrative ability)
* Professionalism
* Ethical and legal standards

A. Observation/Perception

Sensory skills necessary to perform a physical examination are required. These include functional vision, hearing, smell, and tactile sensation. All senses must be adequate to observe a patient’s condition at a distance and close at hand, and to elicit information through procedures regularly required in a physical examination such as inspection, auscultation, palpation, and percussion. Students must be able to perceive by the use of their senses and mental abilities all information presented or conveyed in one-on-one interactions (including patient encounters), diagnostic values and findings, laboratory demonstrations, large group lectures, small group sessions and team-oriented exercises, and in written, audiovisual, and computer-based formats.

B. Communication

Candidates must be able to speak and hear clearly. They must be able to use observational skills to describe changes in mood, activity and posture, and perceive non-verbal communications. They must be able to effectively and sensitively communicate in English in both written and oral modalities in order to interact with faculty members, classmates, other members of the healthcare team, patients, families, and others in order to elicit, convey, and clarify information, to work collaboratively, and to develop therapeutic relationships.

C. Motor/Tactile Function

Candidates must have motor function adequate to elicit information from patients using inspection, palpation, auscultation and percussion, and to carry out assessment maneuvers. Such skills require coordination of gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and sensation. Candidates must have sufficient postural control, neuromuscular control, control of the extremities, and eye-hand coordination to examine patients, provide appropriate patient care, and to attend and participate in all classes, small group sessions and team activities that are part of the curriculum.

D. Cognition (conceptual-integrative function)

Candidates must have sufficient cognitive abilities and effective learning techniques to assimilate the increasingly complex information presented in the College of Nursing curriculum. They must be able to formulate and test hypotheses that enable effective and timely problem-solving in research and protocols and the nursing care of patients in a variety of clinical settings. Required cognitive abilities include rational thought, the ability to make analyses including measurements and calculations, to reach rational conclusions, comprehension of visual-spatial and three-dimensional relationships, as well as ethical and clinical reasoning.

E. Professionalism

Candidates must exercise good judgment, communicate in a clear and timely way with others, and promptly complete all responsibilities attendant to the study of nursing and to the care of patients. They must understand the legal and ethical aspects of the practice of nursing and function within the law and adhere to the ethical standards of the nursing profession. Candidates must be able to tolerate physically taxing workloads, to function effectively under stress, and to display flexibility and adaptability to changing environments. They must have the emotional health to fully use their intellectual ability, exercise and good judgment, and to carry out all responsibilities related to patient care. Candidates must possess sufficient emotional health to withstand stress, the uncertainties inherent in patient care, and the rigors intrinsic to the study and practice of nursing. They must be capable of regular, reliable and punctual attendance at classes and perform their clinical responsibilities in an equally dependable fashion. Candidates must be able to contribute to collaborative learning environments, accept and process constructive feedback from others, and take personal responsibility for making appropriate positive changes. Core attributes of professionalism defined by the faculty of the FAU College of Nursing include altruism, honesty and integrity, respect for others, compassion, responsibility and dependability, empathy and commitment, competence, comportment, conscience, and confidence.

F. Ethical and Legal Standards

Candidates must meet the legal standards to be licensed to practice nursing in the State of Florida. As such, candidates for admission must acknowledge and provide written explanation of any felony or misdemeanor offense or any legal action pending against them, as well as any institutional disciplinary action taken against them prior to matriculation. In addition, any student charged with or convicted of any felony offense while in nursing school agrees to immediately notify the Associate Dean for Academic Programs as to the nature of the offense or conviction. Failure to disclose prior charges or conviction or any new charges or convictions can lead to disciplinary action that may include dismissal.

**Students with Disabilities**

Individuals with disabilities (as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act) may be qualified to study and practice nursing with the use of reasonable accommodation. To be qualified for the study of nursing, those individuals must be able to meet the College of Nursing’s academic and technical standards, with or without reasonable accommodation. Accommodation is considered to be a means of assisting students with disabilities to meet essential standards by providing them with an equal opportunity to participate in all aspects of each required course or clinical experience in the curriculum. Reasonable accommodation is not intended to guarantee that students will be successful in meeting the curricular requirements.

It is the student’s responsibility to submit the necessary forms to the FAU Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in a timely manner for each course and clinical assignment in the nursing program in order to receive the appropriate accommodations. The forms may be downloaded directly from the SAS website at http://www.fau.edu/sas/Forms.php.

**The Use of Auxiliary Aids and Intermediaries**

Technological compensation can be made for some disabilities in certain areas, but a candidate should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner. Qualified students with documented disabilities are provided with reasonable accommodations that may include involvement of an intermediary or an auxiliary aid. But no disability can be reasonably accommodated with an aid or intermediary that provides cognitive interpretation, or substitutes for essential clinical skills, or supplements clinical and ethical judgment. Thus, accommodations cannot eliminate essential program elements or fundamentally change the curriculum of the College of Nursing.

**Request for Accommodation**

Accepted applicants with a documented disability and enrolled students who believe they have a disability, who request accommodations, have the responsibility for documenting the disability and the need for accommodations. Such applicants and students must register with the FAU Office of Student Accessibility Services (SAS). The SAS provides students with disabilities the services and accommodations needed within the framework of these Technical Standards to successfully participate in the full academic program of the FAU College of Nursing. If requested, the SAS will assist the accepted applicants and enrolled students in identifying professional resources available to make an assessment and a recommendation for accommodations. The cost of that assessment is the responsibility of the applicant/student. Documentation of the disability should be submitted to the SAS. Students must register with the SAS to receive authorized academic Support Services, provide documentation of the disability and undergo an intake interview. A SAS representative will collaborate with the Associate Dean for Academic Programs (or designee) to ensure that the requested accommodations are reasonable within the structure and goals of the curriculum.

To be eligible for services at the SAS, a student must satisfy the definition of a disability as established by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Both the ADA and Section 504 define a disability as a condition which substantially limits at least one major life activity such as walking, seeing, speaking, hearing, breathing, learning, caring for oneself, and interacting with others. To be eligible for accommodations, a student must provide appropriate documentation of each disability that demonstrates an accompanying substantial limitation to one or more **major** life activities.

In applying for support services, the student with a disability must provide SAS with appropriate written documentation from a licensed professional in the field concerning the specific diagnosis and expected academic limitations. The submission of appropriate documentation is just one step in the process of registering for support services with the SAS. For a full description on how to submit the necessary appropriate written documentation to request accommodations, go to http://www.fau.edu/sas/Forms.

Note: Professors will be notified of the student’s approved accommodations in a SAS Letter of Notification presented by the student.

Approved CELCON Faculty Assembly, April 30, 2018